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Summary record of the 60th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 8 May 2000, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Ms. Wensley ..... (Australia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

Contents

Agenda item 128: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*)

Agenda item 129: Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (*continued*)

Agenda item 131: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (*continued*)

Agenda item 133: Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (*continued*)

Agenda item 136: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (*continued*)

Agenda item 137: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (*continued*)

Agenda item 141: Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (*continued*)

Agenda item 144: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (*continued*)

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Agenda item 145: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group (*continued*)

Agenda item 146: Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (*continued*)

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (*continued*)

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 128: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (*continued*) (A/54/707 and Corr.1, A/54/732 and A/54/841 and Add.1)

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*) (A/54/708, A/54/724 and A/54/841 and Add.2)

Agenda item 129: Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (*continued*) (A/54/548, A/54/809, A/54/812 and A/54/831)

Agenda item 131: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (*continued*) (A/54/780, A/54/785 and A/54/841 and Add.7)

Agenda item 133: Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (*continued*) (A/54/803 and A/54/835)

Agenda item 136: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (*continued*) (A/54/704, A/54/729 and A/54/841 and Add.4)

Agenda item 137: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (*continued*) (A/54/721, A/54/735 and A/54/841 and Add.5)

Agenda item 141: Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (*continued*) (A/54/705 and A/54/822)

Agenda item 144: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (*continued*) (A/54/683, A/54/697, A/54/712 and A/54/841 and Add.6)

Agenda item 145: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group (*continued*) (A/54/713 and A/54/823)

Agenda item 146: Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (*continued*) (A/54/740 and A/54/824)

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (*continued*) (A/54/274-E/1999/116, A/54/757 and A/54/825)

1. **Mr. Persaud** (Chief, Finance Management and Support Service, Field Administration and Logistics Division), replying to the questions posed at the preceding meeting by the representative of the United States of America on the implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services concerning the procurement of quartering area goods in the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) (A/54/548, para. 17), said that recommendation 1 had already been implemented. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Procurement Division were considering recommendation 2 with a view to making suitable arrangements for its implementation, and the Procurement Division, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations were considering recommendation 3 and the procedures which the United Nations should follow in the award of contracts. With respect to recommendation 4, additional legal guidance had been sought as to what issues should be brought to the attention of legal advisers in United Nations peacekeeping missions, particularly in relation to types of contracts and legal decisions taken prior to the award of a contract.

2. With respect to training and information, a number of courses had been organized in 1999, and similar arrangements had been made for 2000. For example, in the third week of January a training course for finance officers had been conducted in Brindisi. In addition, a meeting for chiefs of finance of peacekeeping missions would be held from 12 to 19 June in Brindisi. At that meeting, which was being organized in cooperation with the Office of the Controller and the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the subject of document processing would be covered.

3. With respect to procurement, a course for procurement officers would be given in Brindisi beginning on 15 May 2000. Subsequently, in July and August, training courses on procurement and contract management would be given in the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor. The Finance Management and Support Service planned to continue to offer such courses in October for senior officials, probably in Brindisi. Staff from the Lessons Learned Unit would cooperate in the conduct of those courses. Similar courses for other officers would also be given.

4. With respect to the irregularities observed in the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the course to be given in Brindisi for chiefs of finance would highlight the consideration of the monitoring mechanisms that should be put in place and the implementation of procedures to ensure strict compliance with established rules. In that context, work was being done in collaboration and consultation with the Office of Internal Oversight Services to ensure that, when auditors from the Office conducted audits, they placed special emphasis on the need to follow established procedures.

5. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations had requested the missions to provide information on the implementation of financial procedures at various levels. The Department intended to use the information to determine the degree of compliance with established rules in the context of the delegation of authority in missions. The Department strove to ensure that cases of non-compliance with established procedures were addressed without delay and, on the basis of its experience in the last two years, tried to prevent the recurrence of incidents such as the ones which had taken place in Angola in the mid-1990s.

6. **The Chairman** said she took it that the Committee had concluded its general discussion on agenda items 129, 131, 133, 136, 137, 141, 144, 145, 146 and 147 and that it wished to continue its consideration of those items in informal consultations.

7. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 3.20 p.m.